Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-42 are pending. 1-42 stand rejected.

Certified Copies of Priority Documents:

This application is a U.S. National Phase Application of PCT International Application PCT/JP99/05509.

In the Office Action Summary, the Examiner has not acknowledged receiving certified copies of the priority documents. In the Notice of Acceptance of Application dated August 10, 2000, by the USPTO as a designated office, the certified copies were listed as received. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge receipt of such documents.

Section 103 Rejections:

Independent claims 1, 37, 40 and 41 have been rejected as being obvious in view of Shimizu and Kitamura. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is overcome for the reasons set forth below.

Amended claim 37 now includes features which are not suggested by the cited references, namely:

- (b) generating a circumferential state of the vehicle . . .

- (c) generating a synthetic image of the vehicle by **superimposing an image of an assumed-movement pattern of the vehicle** with respect to the circumferential-state image,
- wherein the **image of the assumed-movement pattern** of the vehicle **shows** a future movement of the vehicle in performing **one of a stored series of driving operations** for the vehicle and a current position of the vehicle . . .

Basis for amended claim 37 may be found, for example, in the specification at page 16, lines 1-9. As described, a driver may select **one of an assumed-movement pattern** which is **stored** in a storage device by pattern selecting means. The selected assumed-movement pattern **is then superimposed on a circumferential-state image**. In this manner the driver views **both** (1) **the circumferential-state image and (2) one of a series of assumed-movement-pattern images that have been previously stored in a storage device**.

Shimizu discloses a synthetic image generator for generating a superimposed image with respect to a driver's viewpoint. FIG. 7 of Shimizu includes car position estimating unit 241 which calculates a current position of a vehicle, based on the past history of the user's performance, as monitored by control equipment 230. Shimizu only suggests displaying the current position of the vehicle and cannot display an assumed-movement pattern of the vehicle.

Shimizu does **not** suggest the features of amended claim 37, namely, generating a synthetic image of the vehicle by **superimposing an image of an assumed-movement pattern of the vehicle onto the circumferential-state image**. Furthermore, Shimizu does **not** suggest that the image of the assumed-movement pattern of the vehicle **shows** a future movement of the vehicle in **performing one of several previously stored series of driving operations** for the vehicle.

The Office Action at page 2, admits that Shimizu does **not** suggest generating a synthetic image of the vehicle that includes an assumed-movement pattern of the vehicle.

Kitamura discloses in FIG. 8 an optimized movement of a vehicle from a current position of the vehicle to an end position of the vehicle. Kitamura, however, does **not** suggest generating a synthetic image of the vehicle by **superimposing an image of an assumed-movement pattern of the vehicle onto the circumferential-state image**. Furthermore, Kitamura does **not** suggest an assumed-movement pattern of the vehicle that **shows a future movement of the vehicle in performing one of several previously stored series of driving operations** for the vehicle.

Applicants further submit that Shimizu does **not** disclose any future position of the vehicle. Kitamura does **not** suggest providing an **image** of an assumed-movement pattern that shows **one of several previously stored driving operations** for the vehicle. Kitamura simply calculates an optimal future movement for the vehicle based on the vehicles present position. This is completely different from Applicant's invention as recited in amended claim 37.

Favorable reconsideration is requested for amended claim 37.

Although not the same, claims 1, 40 and 41 have been amended to include features similar to amended claim 37. These claims are, therefore, not subject to rejection in view of the cited references for the same reasons set forth for amended claim 37.

Dependent claims 2-36, 38-39 and 42 are not subject to rejection in view of the cited references for at least the same reasons set forth for amended claim 37. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-42 are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack J. Jankovitz, Reg. No. 42,690
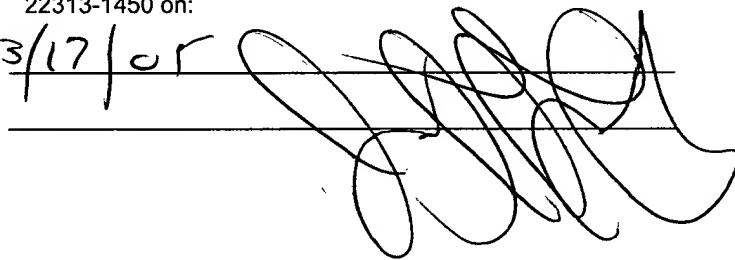Attorney for Applicants

JJJ/mc

Dated: March 17, 2005

☒ P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482
(610) 407-0700

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. **18-0350** of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

3/17/05

MC_I:\MTS\3200US\AMEND_04.DOC